

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## AS I SEE IT

### **The Common Core - Standards for Students in a Global Economy**

*June 24, 2010*

In June, North Carolina became one of the first states to adopt the national Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. While you may not have heard the news and you will not see changes in what is being taught in classrooms yet, the adoption of these new standards is an incredibly important milestone for public education in our state.

For the past 18 months, teachers, school administrators, and experts from across the country have been meeting to determine what students must learn today to make sure they are ready for college and the workforce tomorrow. Forty-eight states initially signed on to this effort, which is similar to the activities North Carolina conducts regularly to revise our Standard Course of Study. The strength of this Common Core initiative lies in the breadth of talented individuals who participated in the standard development process. As a result of their work, our students will meet learning objectives developed not only from the best resources in this state, but also from the most advanced current thinking and best standards in the nation and from other countries. The new Common Core standards to be implemented in North Carolina classrooms in 2012-13:

- are aligned with college and work expectations;
- are clear, understandable and consistent;
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy and society; and
- are evidence- and research-based.

The Common Core Standards fit perfectly into the work already being done in our Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE), which will eventually result in a new state curriculum in all subject areas, new tests and a new accountability model. In the subjects of English Language Arts and Mathematics, the Common Core will become our Standard Course of Study. This shared set of curriculum objectives and continued collaboration with other states will continue to benefit students as we work to develop professional development resources to help educators transition to the new standards and tests to measure student mastery of objectives in these subject areas.

What and how we teach our children must evolve if our nation is to lead in national and global competition for jobs and investment. The Common Core Standards will help us continue to move forward. Soon all students, whether they are in North Carolina, Wisconsin or any other Common Core state, will be able to learn the same critical skills they need to be college and career ready. And when teachers are teaching and students are learning a universal set of high quality education standards, our country will produce the type of workforce we need to succeed in the 21st century economy.



Bill Harrison, Chairman  
State Board of Education